

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

**ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

25 MARCH 1963
~~**TOP SECRET**~~

1. Cuba-USSR

a. [redacted]

[redacted] photography
[redacted] show 22 tents (non-Soviet type) and five small buildings have been erected at Artemisa, about 25 miles southwest of Havana.

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d. [redacted]

[redacted] the Baltika had about 400 persons on deck when it sailed Friday night. [redacted]

[redacted] Press reports referred to a "score" of Cuban passengers and a "sizable" number of Soviets in the pier area at sailing time. The Baltika normally can carry 430 passengers.

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2. Cuban Politics

a. The Castro regime is speeding up the organization of its political machine, the United Party of the Socialist Revolution.

b. Castro is taking care to prevent pre-revolutionary organizations from gaining any influence in the new party. This means that the veteran Cuban Communists, who failed a year ago to take over Castro's party, will have to stay on the back seat.

c. The formal completion of the organizing process is promised for this year.

3. Soviet Missiles

a. The USSR continues to lag behind the US in developing effective solid fuels for long-range missiles.

b. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Russians were having troubles in this field in 1961. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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4. Indonesian Oil

a. The dispute between Indonesia and Western oil companies may be on the way toward settlement.

b. Indonesia's negotiator--Chaerul Saleh--has told Ambassador Jones and Caltex officials that they misunderstood his position. He said foreign exchange loans made by the companies would be repaid by Indonesia in oil, not out of company profits as they had understood.

c. Saleh denied having any intention of seeking a change in the present 60-40 profit split. The Caltex officials said they thought a deal could be worked out.

5. UAR - Iraq - Syria

a.

the situation in Syria is critical

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6. Iraq

a.

Baghdad's plans for phasing out Communist Bloc aid projects and contract proposals in various fields.

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b. Our embassy has learned that the Iraqi Minister of Industry will go to West Germany next month, looking for development aid.

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7. UAR - Saudi Arabia

a. Nasir told Ambassador Badeau on 23 March that, if Faysal is willing, he would favor direct UAR-Saudi contacts to mend relations.

b. Nasir claimed that last February the UAR ambassador in Algeria had talked to a Saudi representative--a Sheikh Yusuf Wahba--along these lines. He said that the UAR also approached the Saudis through an Iraqi intermediary early in March, but got no reply.

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8. Cambodia

a. Cambodian military leaders are afraid Sihanouk's acceptance of Soviet MIG 17's--six are due to arrive next month--may jeopardize continued US military assistance.

b. They are telling us that Sihanouk's move was purely for neutralist prestige purposes. They claim to have no illusions about Cambodian ability to use or maintain such aircraft and have told us that if Soviet financial aid for supporting the MIG's is not received, the planes will, for the most part, gather dust in the hangar.

NOTES

- A. Venezuela-Guatemala Guatemala's supreme court decided on 22 March that Arevalo has a constitutional right to return, and the government may now declare a state of siege as a device to prevent it. Betancourt told Ambassador Stewart on 21 March that Arevalo will soon pay him a visit in Caracas. He said that there would be an unpublicized discussion at his residence, and that if Arevalo tried to make something of it, he would "take care of that."

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- C. France Reuters reports from Paris this morning that the French coal miners are girding for a long struggle. Union leaders turned down a government pay offer yesterday. Repercussions in other labor areas are expected.
- D. Korea The regime has announced it will hold a meeting of key government, civilian, and military leaders on 27 March to seek a compromise solution to the current crisis. Press reports indicate that two top civilian politicians--former President Yun Po-Sun and former Premier Huh Chung--will boycott the meeting.

(Cont'd)

E. Venezuela Betancourt intends to ask Brazil to extradite the Anzoategui hijackers. If Brazil does not cooperate, he will take the matter to the International Court of Justice.

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